

LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method executed in a computer ~~apparatus for creating~~ system with at least one physical computing device for producing a model of a combined ~~physical structural~~ system having physical quantities by representing physical quantities of ~~the~~ said combined ~~physical structural~~ system in terms of a combined set of partial differential equations, ~~the said~~ method comprising:

representing at least one of a plurality of structural systems as two or more selected application modes modeling physical quantities of said at least one of said plurality of ~~physieal structural~~ systems;

using a first physical computing device, determining a set of partial differential equations for each of ~~the said~~ two or more selected application modes, parameters of ~~the~~ said partial differential equations being physical quantities of corresponding ones of said plurality of structural systems;

using said first physical computing device or a second physical computing device, forming said combined set of partial differential equations using the determined sets of partial differential equations associated with said one of said plurality of structural systems; and

outputting to a display device or a communication device a said model of said combined ~~physical structural~~ system based on said combined set of partial differential equations for the two or more selected application modes for said one of said plurality of structural systems, whereby ~~the~~ said model represents a mathematical expression of ~~the~~ said physical quantities of ~~the said~~ combined ~~physical structural~~ system.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

representing at least one of said physical quantities of a first of said plurality of application modes using at least one dependent variable in said set of partial differential equations corresponding to said first of said plurality of application modes.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 3, further comprising:

representing said at least one of said physical quantities directly as said at least one dependent variable.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 4, further comprising:

representing said at least one of said physical quantities using a relation between said at least one dependent variable and another variable representing said at least one physical quantity.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 5, wherein said at least one of said physical quantities is represented using at least one of: a numerical value and a mathematical expression.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 6, further comprising:

forming said mathematical expression including at least one of: a space coordinate, a time coordinate, a numerical value, and an actual physical quantity.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

associating at least one subdomain with each application mode.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 8, wherein each of said physical ~~quantity~~ quantities is described by at least one physical property, and the method further comprising:

disabling at least one physical quantity and associated variables in a subdomain.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
 - displaying on said display device a partial differential equation in one of a:
coefficient view and a general form corresponding to a representation of said partial
differential equation; and
 - modifying a portion of said partial differential equation.
11. (Original) The method of Claim 10, further comprising:
 - modifying at least one boundary condition of said partial differential equation.
12. (Original) The method of Claim 10, further comprising:
 - modifying at least one coefficient of said partial differential equation.
13. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 10, further comprising:
 - obtaining data using a graphical user interface in connection with said one of said
plurality of structural systems.
14. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 10, ~~further comprising:~~ wherein said
display device comprises using a graphical user interface to display and input data.
15. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
 - solving said combined system of partial differential equations using a coefficient
form of said combined set of partial differential equations.
16. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
 - solving said combined set of partial differential equations using a general form of
said combined system of partial differential equations.
17. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 16, further comprising:
 - converting at least one set of partial differential equations included in said
combined set of partial differential equations from coefficient to general form.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 17, further comprising:
converting said combined set of partial differential equations from coefficient to general form.
19. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 18, further comprising:
using linearization of a general form to solve for a non-linear set of partial differential equations.
20. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 19, further comprising:
using a Newton method in solving for said non-linear set of partial differential equations.
21. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
solving said combined set of partial differential equations.
22. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 21, further comprising:
selecting a portion of physical quantities in said combined set of partial differential equations;
solving for one or more variables associated with said portion of physical quantities.
23. (Original) The method of Claim 22, further comprising:
using values associated with physical quantities not included in said portion for specifying initial conditions.
24. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 21, further comprising:
selecting a solver type specifying a particular technique used in solving said combined set of partial differential equations.

25. (Original) The method of Claim 24, wherein said solver type uses a finite element method.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

using a graphical user interface in connection with input data;

storing said input data in a representation in a data structure stored in a memory of ~~the computer system~~ said first physical computing device or said second physical computing device; and

converting said input data into an intermediate form wherein said intermediate form for each set of partial differential equations associated with said one of said plurality of structural systems is used in forming said combined set.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

determining a submode setting associated with one of the sets of partial differential equations associated with said one of said plurality of systems; and

determining a number of variables included in said one set of partial differential equations in accordance with said submode setting and a type of a corresponding application mode.

28. (Original) The method of Claim 27, wherein said submode is one of stationary, time dependent, linear, non-linear, scalar and multi-component.

29. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

selecting at least one application mode.

30. (Original) The method of Claim 29, wherein said at least one application mode is one of predefined and user defined.

31. (Original) The method of Claim 30, further comprising:
modifying a set of routines associated with a predefined application mode to be used in connection with a user defined application mode.

32. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said one of said plurality structural systems being modeled is a one-dimensional geometry model.

33. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said one of said plurality structural systems being modeled is a two-dimensional geometry model.

34. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein ~~said one each~~ of said plurality of structural systems being modeled ~~is~~ has up to a three-dimensional geometry ~~model~~.

35. (Original) The method of Claim 31, further comprising:
defining a user-defined application mode.

36. (Original) The method of Claim 35, wherein said defining a user-defined application mode further comprises:

defining an object class corresponding to said user-defined application mode; and
defining a first portion of methods included in said object class using
functionality that is inherited from other classes.

37. (Original) The method of Claim 36, further comprising:
overloading a second portion of methods to provide alternative functionality.

38. (Original) The method of Claim 37, further comprising:
using overloading in connection with at least one method to disable functionality
of said at least one method.

39. (Original) The method of Claim 31, further comprising:

defining an application that is a subclass of an existing class corresponding to functionality of an application mode.

40. (Original) The method of Claim 39, wherein said application mode is user-defined.

41. (Original) The method of Claim 39, wherein said application mode is predefined.

42. (Currently Amended) ~~A computer-readable medium having stored thereon instructions for creating~~ An apparatus for producing a model of a combined physical system having physical quantities by representing physical quantities of ~~the said~~ combined physical system in terms of a combined set of partial differential equations ~~comprising machine executable code which when executed by at least one processor, causes the processor to perform steps, said apparatus~~ comprising:

a computer comprising a processor, a user input device, a display device, and a memory device, said memory device containing executable instructions for producing said model of said combined physical system having physical quantities by representing physical quantities of said combined physical system in terms of said combined set of partial differential equations, said executable instructions causing said processor to perform, upon execution, acts comprising

representing in up to three space dimensions at least one of a plurality of systems as two or more selected application modes modeling physical quantities of said one of said plurality of systems;

using said processor, determining a set of partial differential equations for each of the said two or more selected application modes, parameters of the said partial differential equations being physical quantities of corresponding ones of said plurality of systems;

forming said combined set of partial differential equations using sets of partial differential equations associated with said one of said plurality of systems; and

outputting a said model of said combined physical system to said display device or a communication device, said model based on said combined set of partial differential equations for ~~the said~~ two or more selected application modes for ~~the~~ said of said plurality of systems, whereby ~~the said~~ model represents a mathematical expression of ~~the said~~ physical quantities of ~~the said~~ combined physical system.

43. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ apparatus of Claim 42, further comprising:

representing at least one of said physical quantities of a first of said plurality of application modes using at least one dependent variable in said set of partial differential equations corresponding to said first of said application modes.

44. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ apparatus of Claim 43, further comprising:

representing said at least one of said physical quantities directly as said at least one dependent variable.

45. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ apparatus of Claim 44, further comprising:

representing said at least one of said physical quantities using a relation between said at least one dependent variable and another variable representing said at least one physical quantity.

46. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ apparatus of Claim 45, wherein said at least one of said physical quantities is represented using at least one of: a numerical value and a mathematical expression.

47. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ apparatus of Claim 46, further comprising:

forming said mathematical expression including at least one of: a ~~space coordinate~~, a time coordinate, a numerical value, and an actual physical quantity.

48. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ apparatus of Claim 42, further comprising:

associating at least one subdomain with each application mode.

49. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ apparatus of Claim 48, wherein each of said physical quantity is described by at least one physical property, and the ~~computer-readable medium~~ apparatus further comprises:

disabling at least one physical quantity and associated variables for a portion of a subdomain.

50. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ apparatus of Claim 42, further comprising:

displaying a partial differential equation in one of a: coefficient view and a general form corresponding to a representation of said partial differential equation; and modifying a portion of said partial differential equation.

51. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ apparatus of Claim 50, further comprising:

modifying at least one boundary condition of said partial differential equation.

52. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ apparatus of Claim 50, further comprising:

modifying at least one coefficient of said partial differential equation.

53. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ apparatus of Claim 50, further comprising:

obtaining data using a graphical user interface in connection with said one of said plurality of systems.

54. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ apparatus of Claim 50, ~~further comprising: wherein said user input device and said display device comprise using a graphical user interface to display and input data.~~

55. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ apparatus of Claim 42, further comprising:

solving said combined set of partial differential equations using a coefficient form of said combined set of partial differential equations.

56. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ apparatus of Claim 42, further comprising:

solving said combined set of partial differential equations using a general form of said combined set of partial differential equations.

57. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ apparatus of Claim 56, further comprising:

converting at least one set of partial differential equations included in said combined set of partial differential equations from coefficient to general form.

58. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ apparatus of Claim 57, further comprising:

converting said combined set of partial differential equations from coefficient to general form.

59. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ apparatus of Claim 58, further comprising:

using linearization of a general form to solve for a non-linear system of partial differential equations.

60. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ apparatus of Claim 59, further comprising:

using a Newton method in solving for said non-linear system of partial differential equations.

61. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ apparatus of Claim 42, further comprising:

solving said combined set of partial differential equations.

62. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ apparatus of Claim 61, wherein said solving said combined set further includes:

selecting a portion of physical quantities in said combined set of partial differential equations; and

solving for one or more variables associated with said portion of variables.

63. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ apparatus of Claim 62, further comprising:

using values associated with physical quantities not included in said portion for specifying initial conditions.

64. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ apparatus of Claim 61, further comprising:

selecting a solver type specifying a particular technique used in solving said combined set of partial differential equations.

65. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ apparatus of Claim 64, wherein said solver type includes solving a system of partial differential equations using a finite element method.

66. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ apparatus of Claim 42, further comprising:

receiving input data for said model using a graphical user interface ~~in connection with input data;~~

storing said input data in a representation in a data structure stored in a said memory device of ~~the said~~ computer ~~system~~; and

converting said input data into an intermediate form wherein said intermediate form for each set of partial differential equations associated with said one of said plurality of systems is used in forming said combined set.

67. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ apparatus of Claim 42, further comprising:

determining a submode setting associated with one of the sets of partial differential equations associated with said one of said plurality of systems; and

determining a number of variables included in said one set of partial differential equations in accordance with said submode setting and a type of a corresponding application mode.

68. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ apparatus of Claim 67, wherein said submode is one of stationary, time dependent, linear, non-linear, scalar and multi-component.

69. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ apparatus of Claim 42, further comprising:

selecting at least one application mode.

70. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ apparatus of Claim 69, wherein said at least one application mode is one of predefined and user defined.

71. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ apparatus of Claim 70, further comprising:

- defining a user defined application mode; and
- modifying a set of routines associated with a predefined application mode to be used in connection with a user defined application mode.

72-74. (Cancelled).

75. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ apparatus of Claim 42, further comprising:

- defining a user-defined application mode.

76. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ apparatus of Claim 75, ~~wherein said machine-executable code for defining a user-defined application mode further comprises~~ further comprising:

- defining an object class corresponding to said user-defined application mode; and
- defining a first portion of methods included in said object class using functionality that is inherited from other classes.

77. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ apparatus of Claim 76, further comprising:

- overloading a second portion of methods to provide alternative functionality.

78. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ apparatus of Claim 77, further comprising:

- using overloading in connection with at least one method to disable functionality of said at least one method.

79. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ apparatus of Claim 42, further comprising:

defining an application that is a subclass of an existing class corresponding to functionality of an application mode.

80. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ apparatus of Claim 79, wherein said application mode is user-defined.

81. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ apparatus of Claim 79, wherein said application mode is predefined.

82. (Currently Amended) A method executed in a computer ~~apparatus for creating system with at least one processor for producing~~ a model of a combined physical system having physical quantities by representing physical quantities of the combined physical system in terms of a combined set of partial differential equations, the method comprising:

defining a plurality of user-defined application modes modeling physical quantities of an associated model having up to three space dimensions, wherein the application modes are configured to model the physical quantities of at least one of a structural system, a fluids system, and an electromagnetic system;

selecting two or more of the user-defined application modes;

using the processor, determining sets of partial differential equations for ~~said the~~ selected two or more user-defined application modes of ~~said the~~ associated model, parameters of the partial differential equations being physical quantities of an associated model; and

outputting, to a memory device or a communication device, a the model based on a combination of the determined sets of partial differential equations for the two or more selected user-defined application modes for the associated model, whereby the model represents physical quantities of the combined physical system.

83. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 82, further comprising:
solving for said set of partial differential equation using a finite element method.

84. (Cancelled).

85. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~84~~ 82, wherein said defining a user-defined application mode further comprises:
defining an object class corresponding to said user-defined application mode; and
defining a first portion of methods included in said object class using functionality that is inherited from other classes.

86. (Original) The method of Claim 85, further comprising:
overloading a second portion of methods to provide alternative functionality.

87. (Original) The method of Claim 86, further comprising:
using overloading in connection with at least one method to disable functionality of said at least one method.

88. (Cancelled).

89. (Original) The method of Claim 82, further comprising:
defining at least one user-defined application that is a subclass of an existing class associated with an application mode.

90. (Original) The method of Claim 89, wherein said application mode associated with said existing class is user-defined.

91. (Original) The method of Claim 89, wherein said application mode associated with said existing class is predefined.

92. (Currently Amended) ~~A computer readable medium having stored thereon instructions for creating~~ An apparatus for producing a model of a combined physical system having physical quantities by representing physical quantities of ~~the said~~ combined physical system in terms of solving a system of partial differential equations ~~comprising machine executable code which when executed by at least one processor, causes the processor to perform steps, said apparatus~~ comprising:

a computer system comprising a processor, a user input device, a display device, and a memory device, said memory device containing executable instructions for producing said model of said combined physical system having physical quantities by representing physical quantities of said combined physical system in terms of solving a system of partial differential equations, said executable instructions causing said processor to perform, upon execution, acts comprising

defining a plurality of user-defined application modes modeling physical quantities of an associated model;

selecting two or more of ~~the said~~ user-defined application modes;
using said processor or another processor, determining sets of partial differential equations for said selected two or more user-defined application modes of said associated model, parameters of ~~the said~~ partial differential equations being physical quantities of corresponding systems; and

outputting to at least one of said display device, another memory device, and a communication device a the model based on a combination of the said determined sets of partial differential equations for ~~the said~~ two or more selected user-defined application modes for ~~the said~~ associated model, whereby ~~the said~~ model represents a mathematical expression of ~~the said~~ physical quantities of ~~the said~~ combined physical system.

93. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer readable medium~~ apparatus of Claim 92, further comprising:

solving for said set of partial differential equations using a finite element method.

94. (Cancelled).

95. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ apparatus of Claim 94 92, wherein said defining a user-defined application mode further comprises:

- defining an object class corresponding to said user-defined application mode; and
- defining a first portion of methods included in said object class using functionality that is inherited from other classes.

96. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ apparatus of Claim 95, further comprising:

- overloading a second portion of methods to provide alternative functionality.

97. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ apparatus of Claim 96, further comprising:

- using overloading in connection with at least one method to disable functionality of said at least one method.

98. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ apparatus of Claim 97, further comprising:

- selecting a plurality of application modes associated with at least one of a plurality of systems, said user-defined application being one of said plurality of application modes selected; and
- forming a combined set of partial differential equations using sets of partial differential equations associated with said plurality of application modes.

99. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ apparatus of Claim 92, further comprising:

- defining at least one user-defined application that is a subclass of an existing class associated with an application mode.

100. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ apparatus of Claim 99, wherein said application mode associated with said existing class is user-defined.

101. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-readable medium~~ apparatus of Claim 99, wherein said application mode associated with said existing class is predefined.

102. (New) The method of Claim 34, wherein said representation of at least one of said plurality of structural systems as two or more selected application modes modeling physical quantities includes a time dimension.

103. (New) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

storing said output of said model of said combined structural system in a computer readable memory or in a computer readable storage system located within said first physical computing device or said second physical computing device.

104. (New) The method of Claim 34, further comprising:

storing said output of said model of said combined structural system in a computer readable memory or in a computer readable storage system located within said first physical computing device or said second physical computing device.

105. (New) The method of Claim 102, further comprising:

storing said output of said model of said combined structural system in a computer readable memory or in a computer readable storage system located within said first physical computing device or said second physical computing device.

106. (New) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

storing said output of said model of said combined structural system in a data storage system, said data storage system communicatively connected to said communication device and to a plurality of host computers comprising at least one of said first physical computing device and said second physical computing device.

107. (New) The method of Claim 102, further comprising:

storing said output of said model of said combined structural system in a data storage system, said data storage system communicatively connected to said communication device and to a plurality of host computers comprising at least one of said first physical computing device and said second physical computing device.

108. (New) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

displaying said output of said model of said combined structural system on said display device, wherein said first physical computing device or said second physical computing device comprise said display device.

109. (New) The method of Claim 103, further comprising:

displaying said output of said model of said combined structural system on said display device, wherein said first physical computing device or said second physical computing device comprise said display device.

110. (New) The method of Claim 107, further comprising:

displaying said output of said model of said combined structural system on said display device, wherein said first physical computing device or said second physical computing device comprise said display device.

111. (New) The apparatus of Claim 42, wherein said systems consist of a structural system, a fluids system, an electromagnetic system, or any combination thereof.

112. (New) The apparatus of Claim 42, wherein said representation of at least one of a plurality of systems as two or more selected application modes further includes a time dimension.

113. (New) The method of Claim 82, wherein said associated model further includes a time dimension.

114. (New) The apparatus of Claim 92, wherein said associated model has up to three space dimensions.

115. (New) The apparatus of Claim 92, wherein said physical systems consist of a structural system, a fluids system, an electromagnetic system, or any combination thereof.

116. (New) A method executed in a computer system with at least one physical computing device for producing a model of a combined physical system having physical quantities by representing physical quantities of said combined physical system in terms of a combined set of partial differential equations, said method comprising:

- representing in up to three space dimensions at least one of a plurality of systems as two or more selected application modes modeling physical quantities of said at least one of said plurality of systems, wherein said systems include a structural system, a fluids system, an electromagnetic system, or any combination thereof;

- using a first physical computing device to determine a set of partial differential equations for each of said two or more selected application modes, parameters of said partial differential equations being physical quantities of corresponding ones of said plurality of systems;

- using said first physical computing device or a second physical computing device to form said combined set of partial differential equations using the determined sets of partial differential equations associated with said one of said plurality of systems; and

- outputting to a display device, a storage device, or a communication device said model of said combined physical system based on said combined set of partial differential equations for the two or more selected application modes for said one of said plurality of systems, whereby said model represents a mathematical expression of said physical quantities of said combined physical system.

117. (New) A method executed in a computer system with at least one physical computing device for producing a model of a combined physical system having physical quantities by representing physical quantities of said combined physical system in terms of a combined set of partial differential equations, said method comprising:

- representing at least one of a plurality of systems as two or more selected application modes modeling physical quantities of said at least one of said plurality of systems, wherein said systems consist of a structural system, a fluids system, an electromagnetic system, or any combination thereof;

- using a first physical computing device to determine a set of partial differential equations for each of said two or more selected application modes, parameters of said partial differential equations being physical quantities of corresponding ones of said plurality of systems;

- using said first physical computing device or a second physical computing device to form said combined set of partial differential equations using the determined sets of partial differential equations associated with said one of said plurality of systems; and

- outputting to a display device, a storage device, or a communication device said model of said combined physical system based on said combined set of partial differential equations for the two or more selected application modes for said one of said plurality of systems, whereby said model represents a mathematical expression of said physical quantities of said combined physical system.

118. (New) A method executed in a computer system with at least one physical computing device for producing a model of a combined physical system having physical quantities and a solution to said model, said method comprising:

- representing said combined physical system by a geometry described by a mesh and a set of physical properties, said mesh including a plurality of elements, each of said elements being characterized by a shape;

- providing a plurality of application modes;

- selecting at least a first and a second of said application modes;

using a first physical computing device to generate a first plurality of partial differential equations based on said first application mode and a second plurality of partial differential equations based on said second application mode, each of the partial differential equations representing a behavior of at least one of said physical quantities of said model in response to said set of physical properties;

using said first physical computing device or a second physical computing device and the first and second pluralities of partial differential equations to form a combined system of partial differential equations;

generating a solution using said combined system of partial differential equations, said solution comprising numerical values for said physical quantities of node points in said mesh;

and

storing in a computer readable memory or in a computer readable data storage system said solution to said model.

119. (New) A method of Claim 118, further comprising:

producing a physical component corresponding to said mesh and said set of physical properties.

120. (New) A method of Claim 118, further comprising:

displaying said output of said model of said combined structural system on said display device, wherein said first physical computing device or said second physical computing device comprise said display device,

wherein said computer readable memory or said computer readable storage system is located within said first physical computing device or said second physical computing device.

121. (New) An apparatus for producing a model of a combined fluids system having physical quantities by representing said physical quantities of said combined fluids system by partial differential equations, said apparatus comprising:

a computer system comprising at least one processor, a user input device, a display device, and a memory device, said memory device containing executable instructions for producing a model of the combined fluids system by representing the physical quantities of the combined fluids system in terms of partial differential equations, the executable instructions causing the processor to perform, upon execution, acts comprising

representing the combined fluids system by a geometry described by a mesh and a set of physical properties, the mesh including a plurality of elements, each of the elements being characterized by a shape;

providing a plurality of application modes;

selecting at least a first and a second of the application modes;

generating a first plurality of partial differential equations based on the first application mode and a second plurality of partial differential equations based on the second application mode, each of the partial differential equations representing a behavior of at least one of the physical quantities of the model in response to the set of physical properties;

forming a combined system of partial differential equations based on the first and second pluralities of partial differential equations;

generating a solution based on the combined system of partial differential equations, the solution comprising numerical values for the physical quantities of node points in the mesh;

and

storing in a computer readable memory or in a computer readable data storage system the solution to the model.

122. (New) An apparatus for producing a model of a combined system having physical quantities by representing said physical quantities of said combined system by partial differential equations, said apparatus comprising:

a physical computing system comprising at a first processor and a second processor, a user input device, a display device, and a memory device, said memory device containing executable instructions for producing a model of the combined system by representing the physical quantities of the combined system in terms of partial differential equations, the executable instructions causing the first processor or another processor to perform, upon execution, acts comprising

representing the combined system by a geometry described by a mesh and a set of physical properties, the mesh including a plurality of elements, each of the elements being characterized by a shape;

providing a plurality of application modes;

selecting at least a first and a second of the application modes;

using the first processor or the second processor to generate a first plurality of partial differential equations based on the first application mode and a second plurality of partial differential equations based on the second application mode, each of the partial differential equations representing a behavior of at least one of the physical quantities of the model in response to the set of physical properties;

forming a combined system of partial differential equations based on the first and second pluralities of partial differential equations;

generating a solution based on the combined system of partial differential equations, the solution comprising numerical values for the physical quantities of node points in the mesh;

and

storing in a computer readable memory or in a computer readable data storage system the solution to the model.